Family Health Survey-3 (2005-06) conducted, by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 46 per cent children below three years of age are underweight according to National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS) reference population, while as per WHO New Growth Standards this figure is 40.4% in the same survey report.

According to the State of the World's Children 2008, India is not home to the largest percentage of malnourished children in the world.

(c) A list of States with details of the percentage of malnourished children is enclosed as statement. *(See* below).

(d) The Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition and LMR and is implementing a number of schemes through out the country, which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women & children. Some of these are as under.

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS includes;

The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re. 1 to Rs. *21*- per beneficiary per day.

From the year 2005-06,50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.

Constant emphasis on States to:

- Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
- Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes;
- Generate nutrition awareness;

(ii) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) (Department of School Education & Literacy); (iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls (Ministry of Women & Child Development); (iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women & Child Development); (v) Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) including:
(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of ante natal care (ANC), skilled care to pregnant women, Post-partum care at Community level.
Immunization.
Integrated Management of Ne-natal and Childhood Illnesses and ma-nutrition.
Emphasis on Infant & Young Child Feeding.
Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid through Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic Acid Supplementation for preschool children, pregnant and lactating women.